

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:ECINGRAHAM:LGR

APPROVED BY EA - ARTHUR W. HUMMEL, JR.

D/HA - MR. SPEAR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 297307

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY HUMMEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, PINT, SHUM, ID

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: RELEASE OF PRISONERS

REF: JAKARTA 15549 AND 15467.

1. THE GOI'S RELEASE OF THE 2,500 PRISONERS AND THE ANNOUNCED THREE-YEAR SCHEDULE FOR RELEASE OF THE REMAINDER ARE MOST WELCOME NEWS. WE AGREE WITH YOU THAT THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE STEP ON THE PART OF THE GOI, AND WE WILL INSURE THAT IT IS REFLECTED IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON INDONESIA SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS. AT THE SAME TIME, WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS NOT THE MILLENNIUM AND THAT THE GOI'S APPARENT INTENT TO RESETTLE THEM IN THE OUTER ISLANDS RATHER THAN PERMITTING THE JAVANESE TO RETURN TO JAVA IS LIKELY TO BE THE SUBJECT OF CONTINUED CONCERN AND CRITICISM.

2. A GOOD PART OF THE CREDIT FOR THIS FAVORABLE TREND IN INDONESIA HAS BEEN DUE TO YOUR OWN CONSCIENTIOUS, SKILLFUL HANDLING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN JAKARTA. IT PROVES ONCE AGAIN THAT IN SENSITIVE ISSUES OF THIS SORT, THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR QUIET, ENLIGHTENED, PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMACY. CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST REGARDS. ROBINSON
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